

KIVETON PARK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1947.General Statistics.

Area in acres	-	20,070
Population (census) 1931	-	17,034
Population (estimated) 1947	-	16,490
Number of inhabited houses	-	4,672
Rateable value	-	£71,720
Product of a penny rate	-	£263

Vital Statistics.Population.

The estimated population of 16,490 was slightly higher than that of 1946 which was 16,220.

The populations in the eleven parishes in the district were as follows:

Parish	Population.
Anston.	2,256
Dinnington	7,096
Firbeck	171
Gildingwells	75
Harthill-with-Woodall	1,370
Letwell	67
St. John's with Throapham	140
Thorpe Salvin	336
Todwick	310
Wales	4,267
Woodsetts	402
Total	16,490

Births.

Live Births	Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate	159	155	314
Illegitimate	11	4	15
Total	170	159	329

Births - cont'd.

Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	1	4	5
Illegitimate.	-	2	2
Total -	1	6	7

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 20.0 compared with 20.5 for the whole of England and Wales for the same period.

The still-birth rate of 0.42 per thousand compared favourably with that of 0.50 for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
89	79	168

The crude death rate was 10.2 per thousand compared with that of 12.0 per thousand for the whole country.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 11 deaths of children under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 33 per thousand live births. The infantile rate for the whole of England and Wales for the same period was 41.

Of these deaths, 3 were due to prematurity, 2 to congenital malformation of the heart, 1 to birth injury, 3 to infection and 1 to accident. In other words, the majority were avoidable and should never have happened.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death of a woman associated with childbirth in Kiveton Park Rural District during 1947.

Increase in Population.

The natural increase of births over deaths was 161. The rate of increase was 9.99 per thousand of the population. The total increase in population was 270.

Comparative Statistics 1940 - 1947.

Y e a r.	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
<u>Births</u>								
Live Births	329	326	302	373	329	283	286	299
Birth Rate $\times$	20.0	20.1	19.4	24.4	21.9	18.5	18.2	19.0
<u>Deaths.</u>								
Total Deaths	168	151	150	153	171	168	162	174
Crude Death Rate $\times$	10.2	9.3	9.6	9.9	11.4	11.0	10.0	11.2
<u>Infantile Mortality</u>								
Deaths under 1 yr.	11	18	18	9	19	12	13	12
Infantile Mortality Rate $\times$	33	53	59	24	58	45	44	40
<u>Principle Causes of Death.</u>								
Heart Disease	47	51	40	35	36	44	33	39
Cerebral Haemorrhage	13	11	11	24	21	23	21	<del>17</del>
Cancer	31	27	18	27	29	28	20	18
Bronchitis	8	6	14	4	12	5	7	14
Pneumonia	7	10	8	7	10	5	5	8
Other Respiratory Diseases.	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis	5	4	6	5	7	3	7	11
Influenza	2	1	1	1	7	-	3	3
Suicide.	3	-	1	-	1	1	2	2
Other violence	7	-	3	7	8	8	18	11
Epidemic diseases	-	2	2	-	2	4	2	<del>11</del>

$\times$  Rates per 1,000 total population.

$\times$  Rates per 1,000 live births.

~~11~~ Figures not available.

Comments.

The fall in the infantile mortality rate is most encouraging after the high rates of 1945 and 1946.

The increase in the number of deaths from cancer is in part due to improved diagnosis of the condition and in part to the fact that people are surviving those diseases which would have previously caused their death before cancer developed.



Comparative Statistics for 1947.

Based on the Registrar-General's Figures.

	Kiveton Park Rural District.	West Riding Rural Districts.	West Riding Admin. County.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate $\equiv$	20.0	21.3	21.8	20.5
<u>Death Rates</u> $\equiv$				
All causes	10.2	11.0	12.3	12.0
Principal Infectious Diseases $\neq$	-	0.16	0.16	0.16
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	0.24	0.41	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	0.06	0.11	0.09	0.08
Respiratory diseases (other than tuberculosis)	1.15	1.23	1.37	$\equiv \equiv$
Cancer.	1.88	1.59	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.27	3.25	3.98	$\equiv \equiv$
Infantile Mortality $\emptyset$ Diarrhoea (deaths in infants under 2 yrs. of age) $\emptyset$	33 -	47 5.74	45 5.31	41 5.8
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> $\emptyset$				
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0.11	0.21	0.26
Other causes	2.98	1.63	1.07	0.91
Total	2.98	1.74	1.28	1.17

$\equiv$  Per thousand of the population.

$\equiv \equiv$  Figures not available.

$\neq$  Combined death rate from smallpox (if any) scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

$\emptyset$  Deaths per thousand live births.

$\emptyset$  Deaths per thousand live and still births.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease:	Cases notified.	After correction.	Cases admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever.	13	13	9	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	1 H	-
Whooping cough.	11	11	-	-
Measles	185	185	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	1	-
Erysipelas.	11	11	-	-
Pneumonia	34	35	4	7
Respiratory Tuberculosis	16	15	-	4
Other Tuberculosis	2	2	-	1
Poliomyelitis.	3	1	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	2	-	-

H This case was sent in for observation but was found not to be suffering from diphtheria.

There was a marked reduction in the number of cases of whooping cough, 116 cases having been notified last year. This was more than offset by the epidemic of measles, no cases of which were notified during 1946.

The area was fortunate during the outbreak of poliomyelitis which occurred in the late summer and autumn, the diagnosis being confirmed in only one case.

Comparative incidence of certain infectious diseases in 1947.

D i s e a s e	Notification per 1,000 Civilian Population			
	Kiveton Park Rural District.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns.	148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census.	England and Wales.
Typhoid Fever.	-	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever.	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever.	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever.	0.78	1.54	1.37	1.37
Whooping Cough	0.70	2.41	2.02	2.22
Diphtheria	-	0.15	0.14	0.13
Erysipelas.	0.70	0.21	0.18	0.19
Smallpox.	-	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	11.29	9.13	9.58	9.41
Pneumonia.	2.13	0.89	0.68	0.79
Puerperal Pyrexia.	6.00 M	10.35 M	7.63M	8.50 M

M Rates per thousand total births (live and still births).

It will be noted from the above table that the district had a lower incidence than most areas as far as many of the major infectious diseases were concerned, measles and pneumonia being the two conditions which were seriously above the average.



### Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1947, 228 children were immunised against diphtheria for the first time, 103 of these were children under school age and 125 were school children. In addition, 504 children who had been immunised four years previously received refresher doses.

The following tables show the number and percentages of children immunised in the various age groups, and the effect of immunisation on the incidence of diphtheria.

A g e.	Number who have been immunised or received refresher doses during the past four years.
Under one year.	13
1 year old.	103
2 years old	129
3 years old.	62
4 years old	67
Between 5 & 9 yrs. old.	700
Between 10 & 14 yrs. old.	552

Age group.	Number of children in group.	Number protected against diphtheria.	Percentage protected.
Under 5 yrs.	1,560	374	24%
5 - 14 years.	2,420	1,252	51.7%
0 - 14 years.	3,980	1,626	40.85%

Year.	No. of children born during the year.	No. of children immunised against diphtheria.	No. of cases of diphtheria.
1940	299	84	35
1941	286	796	16
1942	283	572	38
1943	329	600	23
1944	373	358	6
1945	302	329	6
1946	326	531	2
1947	329	732	Nil.

## Diphtheria Immunisation - cont'd.

The fact that in a population of over 16,000, which includes almost 4,000 under fifteen years of age, there has not been a single case of diphtheria during the past year is a matter for some congratulation. Undoubtedly the main reason for this achievement is the high proportion of children immunised.

We cannot afford to be complacent, however, and until more than 50% of all children have been immunised, and more particularly until at least one third of the children under five, (who face the greatest risk from the disease) have been protected, we still face the possibility of an outbreak of diphtheria.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total.
Tuberculosis cases on the Register at the beginning of the year.	48	21	69
Tuberculosis cases on the Register at 31st December, 1947.	59	23	82
Tuberculosis Notifications received during 1947.	16	2	18
Cases transferred to the district during 1947.	1	-	1
Deaths from tuberculosis in the district during 1947.	3	-	3
Cases recovered and removed to other districts.	3	-	3
Total cases removed from the register during 1947.	6	-	6

The number of new cases of tuberculosis occurring during the year shows little significant change from that of recent years, but fewer cases have been removed from the register during 1947 than during the previous year.

Among the 16 cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year, six were miners, three were men discharged from H. M. Forces, three were children and two were housewives. Both the non-respiratory cases occurred in school children.

Ten patients have been admitted to sanatoria during the year and thirteen have been discharged.



Comparative Statistics 1940 - 1947.

Year.	Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.
1940	103
1941	77
1942	75
1943	77
1944	84
1945	65
1946	68
1947	82

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The following statistics have been supplied by Mr. L.B. Goddard,  
Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspections.

Total number of inspections for nuisances in 1947.....	496
Nuisances found in 1947 .....	657
Nuisances in hand at the end of 1946 .....	8
Total requiring abatement .....	665
Abated during 1947 .....	654
Outstanding at 31st December, 1947 .....	11
Notices served ..... informal .....	586
Notices served ..... statutory .....	68
Informal notices complied with .....	575
Statutory notices complied with .....	68
Legal Proceedings taken .....	1

Regulated Buildings, Trades etc.

Number of tents, vans and sheds in the district .....	7
Visits of inspection .....	26
Number of common lodging houses .....	1 (poor type)
Visits of inspection .....	18
Number of offensive trades .....	1 (tripe boiler)
Visits of inspection .....	9

Drainage and Sewerage.

Portions of district still requiring sewerage:- Firbeck, Todwick,  
Woodall, Woodsetts.

Plans have been prepared for the sewerage of these areas and  
have been deposited with the Ministry of Health, whose approval is  
awaited. Number of houses not connected to sewers is 330.

### Closet Accommodation.

Privies with open middens .....	25
Privies with covered middens .....	142
Pail or tub closets .....	209
Water closets .....	4,945
Waste water closets .....	Nil
Total number of closets .....	5,321
Percentage on water carriage system .....	93%
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses .....	94

### Scavenging.

Annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse .....	£5,900
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### Water Supply.

Total number of houses in the district .....	4,672
Number on Sheffield Corporation supply .....	4,549
Number on Worksop Borough Supply .....	29
Number supplied from springs and wells .....	94
Number supplied from stand-pipes .....	Nil

Chemical examination of three samples of water and bacteriological examinations of eight samples were made during the year. The results in all cases were satisfactory.

### Milk Supply.

Number of milk samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 .	8
Number adulterated...	Nil
Number of samples of ordinary milk taken for methylene blue test...	Nil
Number of ordinary milk samples taken for tuberculosis.....	1
Number of cowkeepers in the district.....	86
Number of cowsheds .....	136
Number of milk cows .....	1,014
Number of milk farms inspected .....	86
Number of cowsheds inspected .....	136
Number of wholesale milk traders registered .....	50
Number of milk retailers registered .....	51

### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 - 1946.

#### Tuberculin Tested milk.

Number of licences	-	1
Samples taken	-	Nil.

#### Accredited milk.

Number of licences	-	6
Samples taken	-	Nil.

### Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered under Section 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938	5
Inspections made .....	5
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination.....	Nil

### Meat Inspection.

Number of registered private slaughterhouses .....	9
Number of licenced private slaughterhouses .....	1
Inspections made .....	186
Seizures of unsound meat .....	Nil.



Sanitary Inspector's report - cont'd.

Number of sample s taken (other than milk) under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 .....	Nil.
Number of bakehouses in the district .....	5
Inspections made .....	47

Smoke Abatement.

Number of smoke observations of 30 minutes duration taken ...	6
Number showing excessive emission of black smoke .....	2
Number of cautions issued .....	2
Number of statutory notices served .....	Nil

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3).

Number of visits paid under the above Act .....	38
Unsatisfactory conditions found .....	2
Remedied .....	2

Factories Act, 1937.

Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by  
Local Authorities.

Number on Register	-	31
Inspections made	-	98
Written notices	-	10

Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced.

Number on Register	-	15
Inspections made	-	48
Written notices	-	2

Defects found.

Want of cleanliness	-	5
Inadequate ventilation	-	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	-	1
Unsuitable or unsatisfactory conveniences	-	4
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes.	-	1

All these defects were remedied.

Mortuaries.

There is one mortuary at Dinnington.

Ninety houses have been completed in the district during the year, making a total of 195 completed since the end of the War.

The following tables show the housing accommodation in each of the parishes in the district:-

Parish.	Total number of houses.	Houses completed in 1947.	Houses completed since the end of the War.
Anston.	713	19	48
Dinnington.	1,807	6	23
Firbeck	54	1	1
Gildingwells	15	2	2
Harthill-with-Woodall.	379	17	17
Lotwell.	26	-	2
St. Johns with Throapham.	68	12	24
Thorpe Salvin.	102	2	4
Todwick	91	10	14
Wales	1,284	21	49
Woodsetts	133	-	11
Total	4,672	90	195

Squatters' Camps.

The camp at Firbeck has now been evacuated.

At the Brampton Lane Camp there are still five huts, occupied by eight families, a total of sixteen adults and nineteen children living there.

There is no water in the huts, one stand-pipe being available for the Camp.

There is one water closet and five Elsan Closets have been supplied by the Engineer.



Health Services in the area administered by the West Riding County Council.

Many of the health services in the area are under the control of the West Riding County Council. Under the National Health Service Act many more will pass to the County Council control. All of them will, however, be closely linked with the Rural District Council's health services by the Divisional Health Scheme which is now in operation.

The following information is given about the clinics and treatment centres, and the working of the County Council scheme in the district.

Divisional Office: Durlston House, 5 Moorgate, Rotherham.

Telephone No. Rotherham 3122.

The services provided during the year by the County Council included:

(1) Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Ante-natal clinics.  
Maternity Home Accommodation.  
Infant Welfare Clinics.  
Consultant Obstetricians and Pediatricians.

(2) School Health Service.

Medical and Dental Inspection of School children.  
Provision of school clinics.

(3) Tuberculosis Scheme.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.  
Sanatorium and hospital treatment.  
Tuberculosis maintenance allowances.

(4) Venereal Diseases Treatment.

(5) Public Health Laboratory Service.

(6) Ambulance Service.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Centre.	Day and Time.	Doctor attending.	Nurse attending.	Telephone No.
<u>Dinnington.</u> Methodist Chapel.	Wednesdays 2.00 - 4.00	M.T.Jago.	A. Barrett.	
<u>Kiveton Park</u> Methodist Chapel.	2nd & 4th Thursday. 2.00 - 4.00	M. Rushbrooke.	B.E.M. Lavan.	
<u>Listerdale.</u> Maternity Home. (Booked cases only).	Mondays 9.30-12.30 2.00-4.00 Thursdays 9.30-12.30	M. S. Scott.	H. Cotton.	Wickersley 2172.

## MATERNITY HOME.

Listerdale Maternity Home - Telephone No. Wickersley 2172.

Number of Beds - 22.

### Resident Staff.

Matron - Mrs. D. D. Firth.

Sister and seven midwives.

Medical Superintendent: Medical Officer of Health.

Consultants: Mr. J. E. Stacey, Mr. J. Chisholm,  
Mr. Glyn Davies and Mr. L. B. Patrick.

Cases are admitted from Rotherham Rural District, Kiveton Park Rural District, Maltby Urban District, Rawmarsh, Swinton, Mexborough, Conisborough, Wombwell and Bentley Urban Districts.

### Statistics for 1947.

Admissions.....	-	563
Babies born.....	-	522
Delivered by Midwives.....	-	484
Delivered by patients' doctor...	-	40
Sets of Twins.....	-	1
Still births.....	-	7
Neo-natal deaths .....	-	5
Maternal deaths.....	-	Nil
Ante-natal cases treated.....	-	38
Emergency cases.....	-	1
Consultations by Consultant Obstetricians.....	-	7
Cases transferred to other hospitals	-	9
Puerperal Pyrexia notifications.	-	8

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Centre.	Day and Time.	Doctor attending.	Nurse attending.
<u>Dinnington.</u> Methodist Chapel.	Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.30	M. T. Jago.	A. Barrett.
<u>Kiveton Park.</u> Methodist Chapel.	Mondays 2.00 - 4.30	B.D. Rawlin.	B.E.M. Lavan.

## Maternity and Child Welfare Statistics.

### Attendances at clinics.

C e n t r e	A t t e n d a n c e s.		
	Mothers.	Infants.	Expectant Mothers
Dinnington.	2191	2059	542
Kiveton Park.	1902	1836	191.



Maternity and Child Welfare Statistics - cont'd.

Visits by Health Visitors.

No. of first visits to children under 1 year	-	324
No. of first visits to children from 1 - 4 years	-	7
No. of re-visits to children under 1 year	-	158
No. of re-visits to children from 1 - 4 years	-	204
No. of pre-natal visits	-	19

M I D W I V E S.

Name.	Address.	Telephone No.
Blockley G.	Dartney House, Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington.	Dinnington 206.
Bonsall, D.B.	19 Lime Tree Avenue, Kiveton Park.	Kiveton 277.
Searson, L.	4 Lordens Hill, Dinnington.	Dinnington 229.

Number of confinements attended as midwife	-	186
Number of confinements attended as maternity nurse	-	31

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Children were examined in the schools by the Medical Officer of Health and by the Assistant County Medical Officers, Dr. J.E.M. White and Dr. H. S. Bury.

Periodic Medical Inspections.

Number of entrants examined	-	20
Number of intermediates examined	-	94
Number of leavers examined	-	18
Special examinations	-	43

44 pupils were found to require treatment.

A school clinic is open at Dinnington Methodist Chapel on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9.30 a.m.

Paediatric Clinic.

Dr. C. C. Harvey, the Child Health Officer, sees children by appointment at Carnson House, 1 Moorgate Road, Rotherham, on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 o'clock. Cases are referred by General Practitioners and doctors in charge of infant welfare and school clinics.

T U B E R C U L O S I S   S C H E M E.

Dispensary Service.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is situated at 162 Lordens Hill, Dinnington. Clinics are held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. by Dr. H. A. Crowther, the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer and by Dr. A. M. Jeanetta, the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer. Patients requiring X-ray examination are referred for this purpose to the

Dispensary Service - cont'd.

Dispensary at Carnson House, 1 Moorgate Road, Rotherham.

Institutional Treatment.

The following table shows the number of patients admitted to or discharged from institutional treatment during 1947.

Institution.	Admissions.			Discharges.		
	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.
Middleton Sanatorium	3	-	1	3	-	1
Scotton Banks Sanatorium	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cardigan Sanatorium	1	-	-	-	-	-
Crookhill Hall Sanatorium	4	-	-	6	-	-
Oakwood Hall Sanatorium.	1	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	9	-	1	10	-	2

Welfare Services.

Domiciliary open-air sleeping shelters are available on loan to patients if sleeping accommodation would not otherwise be satisfactory.

Surgical appliances are now provided free of cost, without reference to family means, where such appliances are necessary for the treatment of the tuberculous condition.

A grant of extra nourishment is made to sufferers from tuberculosis to assist them to acquire a greater physical resistance to the disease. This is at present fixed by the Ministry of Food at two pints of milk per day and three eggs per week.

Under the Ministry of Health scheme outlined in Memo. 266/T financial assistance is given to patients who have had to give up remunerative employment to undertake treatment, provided that there is a reasonable chance of them recovering working capacity. In addition Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments are available in cases where the family income is considered to be inadequate.



## VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.

Address.	Days and Hours of Attendance.	
	Men.	Women and Children.
12 Frederick St. Rotherham.	Wednesday 9.30-12.30 pm. 5.30-8.00 pm.	Thursday 2.0-4.30 p.m. Friday 5.30-7.30 p.m. Saturday 9.30-12 noon.
Jessop Hospital, Sheffield.	-----	Tuesday 4.0 - 6.0 p.m. Thursday 4.0 - 6.0 p.m.
Royal Hospital, Sheffield.	Tuesday 7.0 - 9.0 p.m. Wednesday 5.0-7.0 p.m. Thursday 11 a.m.	-----
Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.	Monday 5.0 - 7.0 p.m. Wednesday 5.0 - 8.0 pm. Thursday 5.0 - 7.0 pm. Friday 5.0 - 7.0 pm.	Monday 2.0 - 4.0 pm.
City General Hospital.	-----	Tuesday 2.0 - 4.0 pm.

## PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES.

Specimens for laboratory examination are sent to the West Riding Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield.

Urgent diphtheria swabs are examined at the County Borough Laboratory, Municipal General Hospital, Rotherham.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The main ambulance depot is at Dunford House, Wath-on-Dearne.

There is a sub-depot serving the area at Wales Road, Kiveton Park. This sub-depot has carried 682 general cases to and from hospital, 67 maternity cases and 94 cases to the Child Welfare Clinic at Rawmarsh, a total of 843 cases transported.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

A Mental Deficiency Social Worker was appointed on 1st November, 1947, and between that date and the end of the year 12 visits were made to mental defectives in the area.

## DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

The District Nursing Associations were taken over by the County Council on 5th July, 1948. The following records show the excellent work done in the area during 1947.

Dinnington Nursing Association: Nurse J. Godley.

General Nursing Cases - 87, Visits made - 2,107.

Casual cases - 30, Visits made - 36.

Total - 117 cases, 2,143 visits.

Wales Nursing Association: Nurse J. A. Hope.

General Nursing cases - 78, Visits made - 2,500.

## C O M M E N T S.

There are few subjects so distasteful to the public as a general lecture on Public Health. The men uneasily expect an exhortation to cut down on beer, tobacco, late hours, and other enjoyments. The women expect a scolding for their high heels, lack of clothing and excessive attendances at the cinema. It seems a pity, therefore, to have to insist that good health depends to a large extent on simple essentials such as fresh air, food, clothing, housing, exercise and rest in satisfactory proportions. And it is obvious that few of the population enjoy all these essentials in their correct amounts.

Without working through the list in detail, we might consider clothing in this report. I examined a large number of children in the schools during the bad weather. Ten per cent of them had leaking boots and shoes, or had insufficient clothing to keep them reasonably warm. The number varied according to the district. Some schools were very much worse than others. Sometimes the children had a better pair of shoes that were kept for Sunday wear. Sometimes their shoes were quite sound, but were far too small for their feet. Children's feet grow surprisingly fast at times. On wet days large numbers arrived with wet heads, which was, of course, more serious for the girls as their hair dried more slowly. Overcoats and underclothing were sketchy in amount and quality. It surprised me how little clothing was worn by some of the younger girls.

It is not necessary for me to say that a great deal of ill health and particularly illnesses such as the common cold, bronchitis, pneumonia and rheumatism, are partly due to exposure because of inadequate clothing and shoes. Fortunately cases of defective clothing in the schools can now be dealt with under the Education Act of 1944.

The smaller number whose family circumstances are poor, can be supplied with clothing and footwear free. The much larger number whose inadequate clothing is due to neglect, or rough wear, or similar causes, can be followed up and remedied by teachers, head teachers, inquiry officers, school nurses and school medical officers.



C O M M E N T S - cont'd.

The school dinner and milk scheme in this area has done a great deal to improve the nutrition of the children. I am not suggesting that the five dinners a week and the two pints of milk supplied to 57 per cent of the children in the schools is all that is necessary to keep them alive and well-nourished. They are fed, in addition, at home. But school dinners have helped considerably in improving nutritional standards. It is to be hoped that the standard of footwear and clothing will show a similar improvement through the provisions of the Education Act.

J. M. WATT, M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health,

Council Offices,

Kiveton Park,

nr. Sheffield.

30th July, 1948.

